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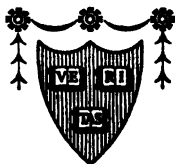
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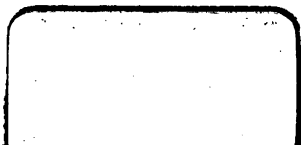
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A SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE, SERVICES, AND DEATH

OF

ELIZABETH MERRITT,

CHILD ELEVEN YEARS OF AGE.

AND

Some Account of Her last Illness.

BY

AND WARING,

Author of the Case of Mrs. T. &c.

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OF THE

LIFE, SICKNESS, AND DEATH

OF

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A CHILD ELEVEN YEARS OF AGE;

Also

Some Account of the last Illness

OF

ANN WARING,

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February 3, 1942

A SHORT ACCOUNT
OF
ELIZABETH MERRITT.

BELIEVING that some account of the life and last sickness of our daughter, Elizabeth Merritt, will prove instructive to the surviving part of the family, to her former associates, and perhaps to others of riper years, we are induced to publish the following memoir.

She was born in Dutchess County, State of New-York, on the seventh of fourth month,

1807. An affectionate disposition towards her little companions, and a tenderness of heart for every living creature were often manifested. And, being a child that early listened to the "voice of wisdom," she was endued with a remarkable judgment in spiritual, as well as in temporal things.

When between three and four years of age, she was visited with severe illness; during which, her attendants observed not only her patience under sufferings, but her thankfulness for the favours she received.

After her recovery, as she was particularly fond of learning, she soon began to read; her favourite companion then appeared to be her book; for the sake of which, she would frequently leave her little playmates. Before she was five years of age, she had, of her own accord, selected and learned the speech of the Apostle Paul before King Agrippa; and having remarked to her parents that she thought it a very extraordinary one, she repeated to them the first twenty-two verses.

When about nine years old, she was again brought so low that her life was despaired of. While lying upon her sick bed and in extreme pain, she several times appeared to be in supplication; but her fever was so high, and her tongue so much swelled, that the words she uttered could not be distinctly understood. From this attack she also recovered; and her faith seemed to be more firmly established, manifesting to those who knew her, that she was seeking "a Kingdom not of this world," and to which she had not been directed by the wisdom of men. She was fond of attending meetings, and her solid deportment when there, was frequently observed. Some who were older than herself were reprov'd by her for misconduct, both in and out of meetings; and on one occasion she remarked, that if people would only *think*, they would not go to sleep in them. She would frequently select some piece of a moral or religious nature, and read it to the family and her young associates.

When she was preparing to go to the Boarding-school at Nine-Partners, she said: "I do

not intend to transgress one rule of the school while I am there ;” and she so far fulfilled her intention, that she was indeed remarked for her orderly conduct. She loved the company of those who were older than herself; and frequently, when the little girls went out to play, preferred going into the young women’s apartment, where she would employ herself in needle-work, or in copying some instructive pieces of poetry, or other composition.

The two following stanzas, which she selected, and wrought with her needle into mottos, for two of her friends, evince a serious and reflective turn of mind :

“ Religion’s sacred lamp alone,
Unerring points the way,
Where happiness for ever shines
With unpolluted ray.”

“ All pleasures are imperfect here below—
Our sweetest joys are mix’d with bitter woe ;
The draft of bliss, when in our cup ’tis cast,
Is dash’d with grief, or spill’d before we taste.

These mottos she afterwards requested her father to bring with her books, &c. from the

school, that her sister might finish them, and give them to the persons for whom they were intended.

She was finally taken ill at the Boarding-School before mentioned, the 29th of 4th month, 1818, about six weeks from the time she had entered it as a scholar. In the early part of her illness she was removed to the house of her uncle, Asahel Lyon; and as she frequently expressed some uncertainty about her recovery, her parents were sent for. Upon their coming, and finding her very ill, they were affected to tears. She observed them weeping and exclaimed: "Oh mother! don't, don't—I want thee to be reconciled to thy lot, be it what it may; it is what we all have to pass through. I feel perfectly willing to die, perfectly resigned."

A few hours after, having lain sometime in silence, a cloud seemed to overshadow her mind for a short time, when with much feeling she cried out: "Oh mother, I don't feel as happy as I did this morning." Being asked the cause

of this change of feeling, she answered : " Oh my sins ! my sins ! " Her mother stated her belief that she had been an innocent child, and added that she did not think there was much of which she would be accused. Elizabeth then became quiet ; and, not long after, was engaged in supplicating the throne of grace, on her own behalf ; but in so low a tone as not to be perfectly understood.

The next day, being the second of the week, she many times expressed her resignation to the Divine will. On her mother's manifesting some uneasiness at the doctor's delay, and not coming as soon as was expected, she said : " There is but one physician that can help me. " That night, her mother and two young women standing by the bed-side, she again prayed for some time ; and as far as her petition could be distinctly heard, it appeared to be on her own account.

On third day morning, being in great distress, she frequently said ; that " her pain was greater than tongue could tell ; and that if we knew

how she felt, we should pity her ; adding : “ Oh mother ! supplicate my heavenly Father to relieve me from my pain ! ” A few minutes afterwards she began in vocal prayer ; in which, and in affectionate counsel to those around her, she continued nearly or quite an hour. There were present at the time, her father, mother, brothers, and some other near relations, each of whom were particularly mentioned in her supplication. They for whom it was offered, recollect the following expressions ; although they are sensible, that both the words and substance are far short of what fell from her lips at the time. “ Oh ! gracious Father, be pleased to relieve thy poor afflicted child, and do with me what thou seest meet ! Remember thy afflicted child, who suffers more than tongue can express. Please to look down upon me, who am in thy hand of power, and whom thou hast helped from time to time, as thou hast seen best !

“ Oh ! merciful Father ! look not on me alone ! but on all thy afflicted children wherever they are ; not only on those who stand strewing their tears around my bed, but on my dear bro-

thers and sisters, and the rest of the family who are at home; and who I doubt not are often thinking of me. I have been wonderfully tried since lying here; in looking around, and freely strewing my tears on my rolling pillow, for those dear children the world over, who are advancing towards their everlasting home, without a knowledge of the blessed truth; and in prayer that they may not remain in darkness for ever and ever.

“ Oh! gracious Father! I pray thee remember my dear parents, who are mourning by me. Make them to rejoice in thy righteous Son, and crown their heads with glory. Oh! most merciful Father! be though pleased to remember them while advancing in years; be their strength in weakness, and support them in all their trials; for it is unto thee alone they have to look, both now and for evermore.”

Then addressing her parents, she said; “ Dear parents! trust in the Lord, and keep his commandments; then will you be good examples to your children, and you will be

crowned with glory when your heads are covered with grey hairs."

To one of her brothers she said : " And now my dear brother Arthur, let me impress upon thy mind this language : Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Now, while thou hearest me speak, stamp these words on thy heart ; write them as with iron ; so that thou wilt remember them when we are separated, never to see each other more but in happiness ; where I hope to see you all. Remember me to my dear brothers and sisters at home ; tell them what thou hast heard and seen ; tell them from a sister that loves them, that they must be good children ; and then they will bring a crown of glory on themselves and their parents. And do thou get the bible all the leisure moments thou hast, and read while thy dear little sisters and brothers are sitting by the fireside in the evening ; and not only read, but try to understand what thou redest ; so thou wilt be a help to them, and a bright shining light to others. Try to help thy sisters out to meetings, and take thy little brothers, one by one hand, and

the other by the other, and lead them to meeting—not only go to meeting, but know what thou goest for; and there worship in spirit and in truth, that thou, and thy sisters and brothers may experience a being washed and purified in the blood of Jesus.” She further said: “I hope you will all remember me when I am gone, and we can no longer converse together, and my head is laid in the dust.”

After recollecting herself she added: “I do not mean to forget Hannah*, whom I consider as one of the family, and whom I love as a sister.

She then appeared quiet in her mind, manifesting her willingness to die, and her entire resignation to the will of her heavenly Father. Being asked whether she thought she should recover, she intimated that she did not—and a few minutes before her departure, one of her parents asking her if she was willing to die, she signified by nodding her head, that she was.

* A young woman who lived in the family.

Then taking leave of her mother by kissing her, she quietly departed this life, the 14th of fifth month, 1818, aged about eleven years.

Thus are verified the words of the psalmist :
“ Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings
thou hast perfected praise.”

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SOME REMARKS

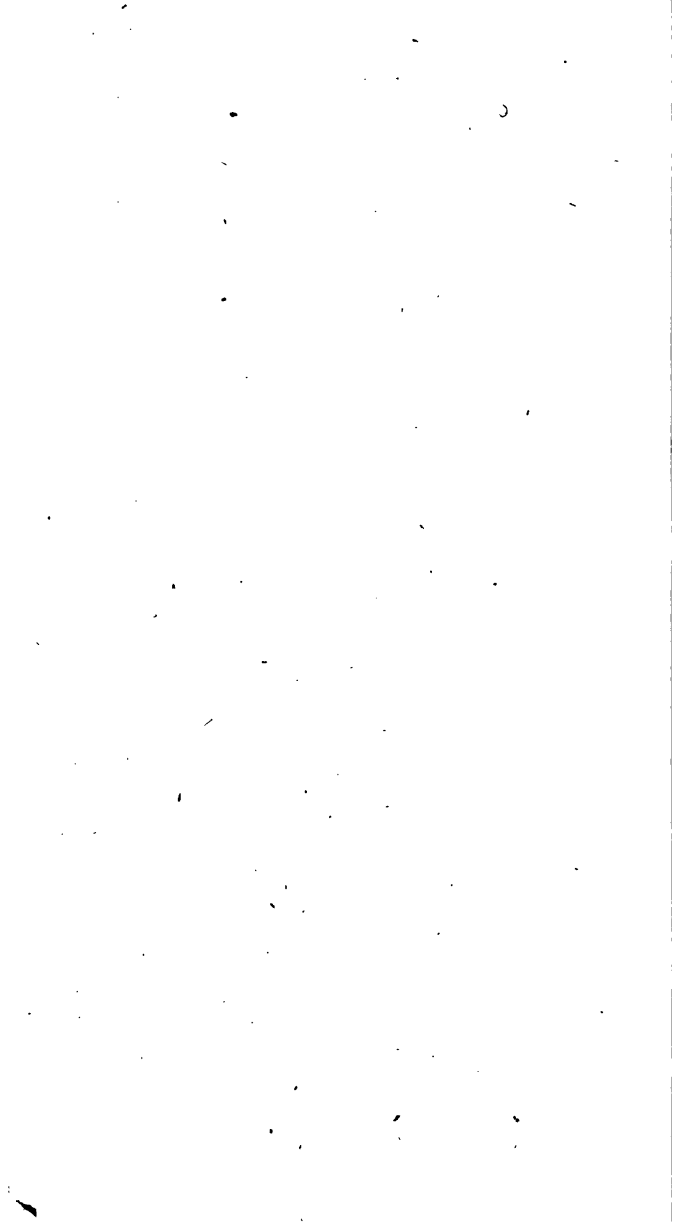
MADE DURING THE LAST ILLNESS OF

ANN WARING.

York :

PRINTED FOR W. ALEXANDER.

1820.



SOME REMARKS
OF
ANN WARING.

DURING the latter part of the illness of Ann Waring, late of the city of New-York, deceased, the wife of William Waring, and daughter of Daniel and Rachel Cromwell, her mind appeared deeply concerned for her everlasting welfare; and at different times, she dropped divers weighty expressions, evincing great fervency of spirit to know her own peace made with God, as well as solicitude for the spiritual health and salvation of her friends and others; some of which expressions have been preserved, and are given in substance in the following pages.

She was not a member of any religious society, but was attached to the principles professed by the Society of Friends, and when in health, she attended their meetings for Divine Worship.

Her sickness was long and tedious; but she bore it with much patience and resignation. The Lord took her from her earthly pilgrimage,

on the 10th day of the 4th month, 1807, in the 28th year of her age; and that she was introduced into the joys of his salvation, there can be no doubt entertained by those who witnessed her triumphant death: for, to her, death was indeed disarmed of his sting, and over her the grave had no victory. To be a spectator of such a death, naturally produces the aspiration: Oh that I might die the death of the righteous, and that my last end might be like theirs!

On a certain occasion, she said to a friend: "How infinitely good the Lord is! How much he bears with us; and after our many offences will abundantly pardon and forgive, and in great condescension will take us to himself!" "Although our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." She farther observed: "Although mine have not been of the deepest die, yet I have found much to be done, and have got through: my sins have gone to judgment before me. This I have a full assurance of; yet it may look strange to a natural mind that I am so positive. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for the Lord is good. He will wash us and

make us clean, and will put away the evil of our doings from before his eyes.

If people generally knew what a rich rewarder the Lord is, they would be more engaged to do his will; for He is entreating them like a tender parent, to leave every thing that will hinder their growth in the Truth, and to take up their cross and follow Him who is meek and low in heart, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace. But how sorrowful is it to behold so many precious lambs stumbling at this cross! for if they would but willingly give up, hard things would be made easy, and bitter things sweet: Where they thought there was no room for them, room would be made, and they would be invited in to partake of the good things of the kingdom, which are beyond description."

At another time, she expressed the great satisfaction she had experienced in being a dutiful child, and said, she had never wilfully disobliged her parents to her knowledge, which afforded her great consolation in that day; as her father assured her, that her conduct had ever met his approbation throughout her life;

with many more comforting expressions. After he left, she said : " I ever kept this great commandment as far as possible in my mind, ' Honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee ;' and I found an attention to this injunction strengthened me in my endeavours to keep in readiness, lest the messenger should say : ' Steward, give up thy stewardship, for thou must be no longer steward.' "

She further said : " We must make a surrender of every thing, even though it should be a right hand or a right eye ; and dreadful indeed it is to reflect, that any have so mispent their time as to be taken away in their sins ; for if the righteous are scarcely saved, where must the wicked and ungodly appear ? Would mankind generally think more of this, and suffer it to have due weight, there would not be so much dissipation as there is."

One afternoon, there came several young women in to see her : they were much dressed, and were light in their conversation, conversing on the various customs and fashions of the present day, which appeared very irksome to her at the

time; and as soon as they took their leave, she in a humble posture, clasped her hands together, saying: "I thank thee, Oh Father! that thou hast been pleased to preserve me from the many snares and temptations which appear so prevalent, and that thou hast been pleased to be near me, and to enable me to work out my salvation, and that with fear and trembling. And may it please thee, Oh Father of mercies! to continue with me to the end of my race, well remembering that the battle is not to the strong, nor the race to the swift; but to those that persevere in well doing to the end." Looking very expressively, she said: "I feel very thankful that I have the privilege of being so much retired, that I may commune with my God, and see whether I am thoroughly cleansed; praying that if there is iniquity in me, it may be done away, and that it may please Infinite Wisdom to strengthen and enable me to press forward for the Crown of Glory, which is well worth our striving for."

She often expressed her desire, that all her friends might be more careful as to their conduct and conversation; fearing, if they did not now closely attend thereto, they would find hard

work when brought on a death bed, and added :
“ I have had some close conflicts ; I have thought of the world and its many enjoyments, and have almost felt a wish to recover ; particularly when my endeared connexions have been around me. Then it was that I felt weak, wishing to enjoy their society longer. When these eager thoughts have had a moment’s place in my bosom, and I have neglected that inward teacher, which never errs, then I have known sorrow, and had to go through nights of prayer on the occasion ; but I am made willing to leave every thing, believing I shall go to a glorious place, where there is no temptation ; and where all tears are wiped away. My spirit is comforted in the love of God, well knowing that he hath been good to me ; and it is a certainty that all must be humbled one time or other. If they will not bow in mercy, they must in judgment : it is well for me that I have been afflicted, else I might not have known the things that belong to my peace ; but now I cannot say I do not know them, for I do and rejoice in them, and my earnest solicitude is, that all might live more in the fear of the Lord ; ‘ for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.’ ”

At another time, she remarked what a great mercy it was that the Lord should visit us in our young years, and reveal his blessed truth to us; further saying: "How good he hath been to me in my sickness. Although I formerly felt much of his power and presence, yet I never enjoyed such plenty thereof as since I have been visited with this sickness. I can say: 'Oh death, where is thy sting! Oh grave, where is thy victory!' There is no terror in death for me. I shall meet it rejoicing, and am almost afraid that I am impatient for the hour; but thy will, Oh Lord! and not mine be done."

One night, after all were gone to bed, and she supposed all to be asleep, and addressing the Almighty, she said: "Most righteous Father! if thou requirest my life this night, I freely give it thee; and am willing to make a surrender of every thing that is near and dear to me. Thou knowest, Oh Father! that the perishable things of this world are as dross unto me when compared to the many good things which thou hast been pleased to reveal unto me. Most adorable Father! if thou hast further work for me, I humbly beseech thee to keep me where I am, for thou hast made my cup to run over;

and, Oh Father ! thou hast taken all my pains ; I am as though I ailed nothing. My tongue is ready to cleave to the roof of my mouth, but thou in thy infinite wisdom, hast been a light to my feet and a lantern to my path. How can I cease praising thee, thou God of power ! who art worthy of adoration and praise for evermore."

Then, observing a beloved friend who was in her room not to be asleep but weeping ; she said : " Weep not for me, but remember David and be comforted ; for the tongue of men and angels cannot enough declare the wonderful greatness of God." Adding, " Oh Father ! how sensible of thee hast thou made me. Thou hast strengthened me ; otherwise, I should not have been able to speak so much of thee. With Thee, Oh Lord ! is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand are rivers of pleasure for evermore."

At another time she mentioned the parable of the ten Virgins, likewise the necessity there was of keeping upon the Watch Tower ; that whether the bridegroom should come at midnight, or cockcrowing, or at the dawning of the day, we might be ready ; adding a sincere wish, that her friends should dwell in love one for

another, walking in the unspotted life; saying: "So shall they grow as pleasant plants in the garden of the Lord; and the dew of life will more and more descend upon them; and when they shall come to the end of their race, their reward will be sure in the Lord."

She manifested much solicitude for the encouragement of those whose faces are turned Zion-ward, that they might persevere in faithfulness; often saying, that the Lord would not leave those who sought him in sincerity, and that the encouragement was very great to the hungry and thirsty soul; for if these are an hungry, the Lord of life and glory will feed them with the hidden manna; if thirsty, he will give them the pure waters of life to drink; and whosoever shall drink thereof shall never thirst more; if naked, sick, or in prison, He is all sufficient to clothe, heal and set at liberty.

She expressed to her brother in a very tender manner the affection she entertained for him, and said as follows: "It is my greatest wish, dear brother, that thou shouldst be prepared for the important change which must take place sooner

or later, by giving up the pleasures and amusements of this world, and seeking for that which would ensure eternal peace in the world to come. I hope thou wilt endeavour to become a comfort to our dear parents, and that thou wilt unite with thy dear wife in seeking to do good, who I believe has something good and precious within her; which, if attended to, will be profitable to her soul. I hope thou wilt not stand in the way of her advancement. I feel for thy situation, in being connected or intimate with persons who are not in the habit of frequenting places of religious worship; who may be of good morals, but are lacking in the necessary part; as there is something more necessary than merely professing to be Christians. I hope thou wilt not be led away by their examples."

She also spake of the necessity of preparing for the peace of our souls while in health and strength, and said: "I am almost ready to be offered; and the time of my departure is near at hand; but I have fought the good fight; I have kept the faith, and have finished my course. Henceforth there is laid up for me a

treasure in heaven, and a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will give me in that day; and not to me only, but unto all those that love his appearing. I entreat thee, my dear brother, to take thy dear wife by the hand, and say unto her: Come, my beloved; let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem; for Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness."

Addressing her sister-in-law, she said, she had frequently felt a desire to say something to her, but had been too backward in that respect, and had suffered much for it; and then remarked, that she hoped she would be steady in attending some place of religious worship; for she believed there was oftentimes much good to be derived from it; that she herself had been too neglectful in that duty, but she now thought it was very hard as there were but a few hours appointed in the week for public worship, that we could not spare that time to attend Meet-

ings. She said, she hoped her sister would endeavour to be a comfort to her poor dear parents, who were almost worn to the grave with sorrow; she thought much lay in her power; and further observed, that if she would strictly attend to the teacher within, little things must be attended to before great ones could ever be attained. She said, she felt much for some of her friends, who (as it appeared to her) were spending their precious time in thinking of nothing but the things of this world. Had they been brought to view them in the light that she did, they would consider them as nothing. It was too often the case that they left the day of repentance, until they were seized with sickness. When they were stretched on a sick bed, filled with racking pains, what time would they then have to seek forgiveness. She said it was a hard thing to give up, but the work was easy.

She was strongly impressed, for a long time before her death, that this was her last sickness; and frequently prayed the Lord to grant her patience and support under her present affliction, that she might be clothed with a disposition to submit entirely, in every respect, to his

holy will, and be strengthened to overcome all evil. She occasionally mentioned it as a favour, that her Holy Father had enabled her to resign and give up such and such worldly things, and to be separated for a season from her near and dear relations; and said, she had received strength to give them up, one after the other, far beyond her expectations; but when she came to her husband and darling infant child, she found the trial exceedingly great.

About two months before her death, she expressed to her husband her great anxiety respecting her dear little child, who, if she should live, would go forth into the world without the overseeing eye and helping hand of a mother. Her husband informed her, the grand parents of the child wished to take her under their charge, and in that case, the child would have the same people to bring her up, that she had had herself; and that his care would likewise be extended, if life was spared. She burst into tears and exclaimed: "Into His hands will I commit her, who has promised to be a Father to the fatherless."

She had much to say respecting the cross of Christ; that she had been favoured to live to see the vanity and folly of professing Christianity without possessing it; and that it appeared most extraordinary that people who were considered to have good sense, should seem to turn their whole attention to heaping up riches, which they were not sure of enjoying one day, and should neglect entirely to prepare for death, which they were sure and certain must come.

As the family were sitting about her one day, she observed how apt we were to indulge ourselves in small things; and the excuse oftentimes given in such cases to the judge in our hearts, was, that some of my acquaintance do things much worse: but we must be sensible that such excuses cannot be of any use, because it is not likely that other people's faults will be of any advantage to us. Every one must do his own work in the day time, and strength will undoubtedly be given to make the work easy; for his "yoke is easy and his burden is light."

She expressed her opinion, that fashion, luxury, and dissipation, had arisen to a very

mournful height; and that we were surrounded by snares and temptations, which she thought would entangle us, if we were not constantly upon the watch. She considered Playhouses as one of the most wicked and unprincipled sources of corruption; and although she had been frequently importuned to go there, yet she had never entered the door; and, added she, "I can assure you, my friends, that this reflection affords me sweet peace of mind."

She once expressed, that we must become like little children; and her disorder was of such a lingering nature, that she was rendered almost helpless in body, and seemed to possess all the innocence of the new born babe. She expressed a wish to leave her child in the care of her parents and husband jointly, with the injunction of her being brought up in a plain manner, and taught the principles of Friends; knowing her husband also thought they were a people, whose principles were better calculated to impress gospel truths on the minds of children, than any other. She further desired, that she might be restrained from reading Novels and Romances; which she believed to be very pernicious, par-

ticularly to female youth ; adding, that her stay here was drawing to a close ; that she had no confidence in any physician, but in her dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ; and had consented to have another called, for no other reason than to satisfy her husband, who was so anxious for her recovery ; and that he had done every thing he could for her comfort ; for which, she hoped he would be rewarded by Him whose reward for well doing was sure. She added many other expressions of love and ardent wishes for the future welfare of her near and dear relations, which were very affecting to all present.

At another time, her little daughter was brought to her, and she being very feeble, took little notice of her ; she was asked, if the child should be carried home, to her grandfather's. She cheerfully replied, Yes : adding, if she should never see her more, she had resigned her up into the hands of her Maker, who was able to do more for her than she could, if she were to continue with her ; and earnestly prayed He would be pleased to take her under his care, and protection. She also again desired, that the

child should be brought up both in speech and apparel, in a plain manner. Finding those present much affected, she took her father by the hand, and with an expressive and smiling countenance, said: "My dear father, give me up. Why cannot thou give me up? for my Heavenly Father has given me the fullest assurance, that he will receive me into his glorious kingdom; where I shall enjoy that which far surpasses any thing this world can afford; and why would thou wish me to continue here?" She said her peace of mind could not be expressed; it was such as all this world could neither give, nor could it take away.

At another time, she said; she longed for the time to arrive; but hoped, she should be favoured to wait with patience: saying, "The Lord's will be done, in all that concerns me; for, I can truly say, I have none of my own; and He in whose hands I am, knows best when to take me;" adding, that she was prepared to meet him; and further said, if she had lived the life that many had, she should have found hard work; but hers had been made easy, as she never had been inclined to pursue pleasures.

and amusements, as was too sorrowfully the case with many; and how necessary it was to be prepared for such an awful change, before we were laid on a sick bed: although the mercies of our heavenly Father are unbounded it was the greatest impudence to put off a work of so much importance, until the eleventh hour.

On another occasion, hearing of a number of sudden deaths, she said, that these were loud calls; and it appeared to her that they were more frequent than usual; and hoped, it would have its desired effect, in warning us to shun the many vices that so sorrowfully abounded; and said: "Oh! that the people would humble themselves in the very dust; for dust we are indeed, and unto it we must shortly all return." farther showing that hence was the great need of living a life of duty; and that these considerations had, of late, very forcibly and frequently brought to her mind the resolution of good old Joshua: "Let others do as they may, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

She seemed to be so sensible of the approach of death, that her mother, who had been with

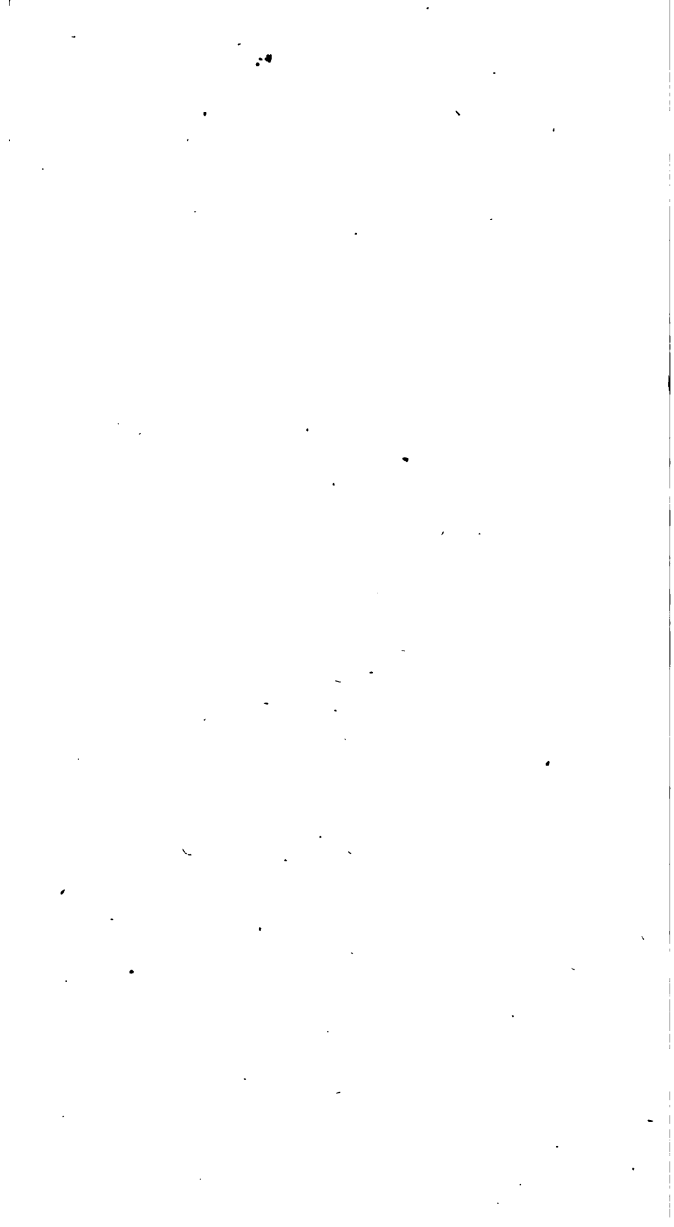
her the night before, wished to remain with her during that night also, fearing she might decease in her absence. She, however, insisted that her mother should go home, and take her rest; saying, she should be favoured with sufficient time to send for her parents and friends, at the closing scene.

The night before she died, she seemed quite restless; wished to be removed often: and as she lay dozing, about the middle of the night, she suddenly roused up a little, and said: "I cannot be with you alway; whither I go ye cannot come; but I pray the Father to send you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." In the morning, she felt very sensible that her end was near; and requested her father and mother and near friends, to be sent for. After a little time, perceiving they were grieving and lamenting exceedingly: "Mourn not," says she, "for me, but mourn for yourselves, and prepare to follow me." After laying some little time, she inquired the time of day; and being told it was eight o'clock; she replied, "At eight, last evening, I was struck with death."

She appeared perfectly composed in mind, and her countenance was the whole time perfectly mild, serene, and pleasant. She appeared fully sensible of what she had mentioned some time before, that what was our loss was her gain; and after a few minutes she exclaimed, with a strong voice: "Oh! what glorious prospects!" She then called her relations to the bed side, and having bid them all an affectionate farewell, after a little pause, she cried out: "Lord Jesus, receive me into thy holy arms;" and with a triumphant countenance, in a few minutes afterwards, breathed her last.

FINIS.







Ed. by W. ALEXANDER, Esq.

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